

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

Applicant: Steph n R. W Ich)

Serial No.: 09/852,996)

Filed: 05/10/2001)

For: Method And Apparatus For
Forming A Binder Cover And
A Ring Cover)PATENT APPLICATION

Examiner M. T. Henderson

Group Art Unit 3722

Dkt #4004022.0026

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action dated December 20, 2002. This response is being submitted at this time with a Petition to Revive the subject application.

It was the writer's understanding, although not recalled by the Examiner, that a response was not previously due for reasons set forth in the Petition to Revive. Essentially, the reference, Welch U.S. Patent No. 6,394,729, relied upon in the aforementioned Official Action was not a valid reference and barring this reference there was no sustainable rejection in the case. Welch '729 is the same inventor as in the instant application and this patent was filed on December 8, 2000 and issued May 28, 2002 which precludes it from being prior art against the instant application that has a filing date of May 10, 2001.

Specifically, the only claims rejected in the application that were principally rejected over the Welch '729 patent, are Claims 7, 8 and 16. Claims 1-6 were allowed and Claims 9-15 and 17-20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base

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R. Kent

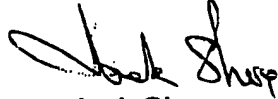
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claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Thus, since Welch '729 is not applicable as a reference, it is submitted that all claims in the application are allowable and such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Jack Shore
Registration No. 17,551

June 25, 2003

Much Shelist
191 North Wacker Drive, Suite 1800
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 521-2778 - Office
(312) 521-2878 - Facsimile